Message Text

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QUITO FOR LITTON

EO 11652: NA TAGS: EAIR, PE

SUBJ: CIVAIR - BRANIFF/AEROPERU DISPUTE - GOP RESTRICTS BRANIFF TO ONE FLIGHT WEEKLY STARTING JUNE 26

REF: LIMA 4339

- 1. IN A SUPREME RESOLUTION SIGNED BY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT GENERAL RAUL MENESES ARATA MAY 27, (AND BY AND/OR ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT VELASCO) GOP ANNOUNCED THAT BRANIFF WILL BE REDUCTED FROM 16 WEEKLY FREQUENCIES TO ONE FREQUENCY PER WEEK (FLIGHT NO 979 ON THE NEW YORK-LIMA-NEW YORK ROUTE "WITHOUT INTERMEDIATE STOPS") AS OF JUNE 26. DECREE STATES IN PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH THAT SINCE CAB HAS RESTRICTED "WITHOUT ANY JUSTIFICATION" AEROPERU'S OPERATING PERMIT TO ONE FLIGHT WEEKLY AND SINCE "ACCORDING TO THE PERUVIAN-U.S. BILATERAL AIR AGREEMENT JUST AND EFFECTIVE RECIPROCITY SHOULD EXIST BETWEEN THE RIGHTS OF THE TWO DESIGNATED COMPANIES", THE GOP DECIDED TO TAKE AFOREMENTIONED MEASURE.
- 2. OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE OF THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMENTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FURTHER THAT GIVEN CAB ACTION THE MINISTRY DECLARED:

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- A. PERU HAS SCRUPULOUSLY RESPECTED THE AGREEMENT IN FORCE;
- B. PERU HAS DEMANDED AND WILL CONTINUE TO DEMAND FROM THE U.S. AND FROM ALL COUNTRIES THE STRICT RECIPROCITY CALLED FOR IN THE RESPECTIVE AGREEMENTS;
- C. SUCH RECIPROCITY IS CALLED FOR IN THAT THE NUMBER OF REQUIRED FLIGHTS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND PERU BE SHARED EQUALLY BETWEEN BRANIFF AND AEROPERU. THE NUMBER OF FLIGHTS THAT BRANIFF HAD DURING THE ABSENCE OF A PERUVIAN AIRLINE WAS REDUCED WHEN AEROPERU ENTERED THE MARKET, SO THAT THE TWO LINES HAD AN EQUAL NUMBER OF FLIGHTS. THAT THIS MEASURE MAY HAVE REDUCED THE PROFITS WHICH BRANIFF OBTAINED DOES NOT MEAN THAT THIS MEASURE IS UNJUST, SINCE THE ONLY THING THAT THE PERUVIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE DONE IS TO DEFEND EQUALITY OF THE FLIGHTS BETWEEN THE TWO LINES.
- D. FOR THESE VERY REASONS OF EQUALITY, PERU ON THIS DAY HAS DECREED THAT BRANIFF SHOULD ONLY HAVE ONE WEEKLY FLIGHT TO LIMA.
- E. DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS, AEROPERU AS WELL AS THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF AIR TRANSPORT OF PERU HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE BEST OF GOOD WILL TO REACH A JUST AND FAIR SOLUTION, AN ATTITUDE WHICH THEY WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN IF THE U.S. AUTHORITIES WISH TO CONTINUE SAID NEGOTIATIONS. END QUOTE
- 3. IN COMMENTARY PRECEDING THE SUPREME RESOLUTION MENTIONED PARA 1, LIMA PRESS ALSO PUBLISHED STATEMENT FROM MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT NOTING, INTER ALIA, THAT THE CAB ACTION TO SUSPEND SIX OF AEROPERU'S SEVEN FLIGHTS "IS AN ACT OF REPRISAL AGAINST PERU". FURTHER, THAT THE "FIRM AND SOVEREIGN RESPONSE TO PERU WAS NOT LONG IN COMING..."
- 4. LIMA MORNING PRESS PLAY (MAY 28) REANGED FROM STRAIGHT-FORWARD STATEMENT IN OFFICIAL GAZETTE, "EL PERUANO", "GOP REQUIRES BRANIFF TO OPERATE ONLY ONE FLIGHT;" THROUGH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOP-OWNED "LA CRONIC", "WASHINGTON REDUCES AEROPERU FLIGHTS TO ONE A WEEK, AND LIMA DOES THE SAME TO BRANIFF;" TO "LA PRENSA", WHICH STATED IN HEADLINE, "THE U.S., IN AGGRESSION AGAINST PERU, REDUCES AEROPERU FLIGHTS TO ONE PER WEEK".

5. COMMENT: GOP'S COUNTERACTION, PRESUMABLY DISCUSSED AND APPROVED BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS YESTERDAY, COMES AS LITTLE

SURPRISE. WHILE IMPORT OF MOST OF OFFICIAL GOP LANGUAGE IS IN BEST GOP "DEFENSIVE" TRADITION, AND GIVES DISTORTED VIEW OF AIRLINE NEGOTIATION AS ANTICIPATED REFTEL, GOP CLEARLY LEFT DOOR OPEN TO FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS IN REFERENCE TO DESIRE TO NEGOTIATE MENTIONED IN PRESS RELEASE. MEDIA TREATMENT TOMORROW MAY BE MORE EXTREME, DEPENDING ON TO WHAT DEGREE GOP DECIDES TO UNLEASH PERU'S "NEW PRESS". DEAN

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